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In re Application of

HIROSHI NOBUTA ET AL.

Application No.: 08/579,733

Filed: December 28, 1995

For: IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD

Docket No. 862.1351

Examiner: M. Wallerson

Group Art Unit: 2722 ✓

Date: January 22, 2001

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2001

Technology Center 2600

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(4) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	* 7	MINUS	** 20	= 0	x \$9 \$18	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	* 2	MINUS	*** 3	= 0	x \$40 \$80	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$135°/\$270						\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT---						\$0.00

* If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 4, write "0" in Column 5.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

A Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.

A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Charge \$_____ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

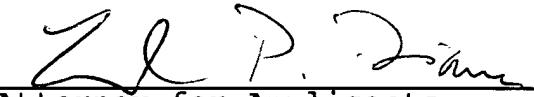
Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the fee for a _____ month extension is enclosed.

A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
GROUP ART UNIT 2722

862.1351

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HIROSHI NOBUTA ET AL.) : Examiner: M. Wallerson
Application No.: 08/579,733) : Group Art Unit: 2722
Filed: December 28, 1995) :
For: IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE) :
AND METHOD : January 22, 2001

#21
R0
2-1-01

Commissioner for Patents
BOX AF
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF FINAL REJECTION OF CLAIMS

Sir:

A Notice Of Appeal And Petition For Extension Of
Time, to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated
May 22, 2000, was filed on November 22, 2000 in the
above-identified application, thereby setting a term for filing a

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United
States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

January 22, 2001
(Date of Deposit)

L.P. Diana
(Name of Attorney for Applicants)

L.P. Diana
(Signature) January 22, 2001
(Date of Signature)

Brief to expire January 22, 2001. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this Request is timely filed, and no petition for extension of time is necessary.

Claims 24, 26, 27, 29, and 57-59 are pending in this application, with Claims 24 and 27 being in independent form.

All of the pending claims stand finally rejected as follows:

Claims 24, 27, 57, and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,021,892 (Kita et al.); Claims 26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita et al. in view of U.S. Patent No.

5,218,458 (Kochis et al.); and Claim 58 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,947 (Kenmochi et al.).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the final rejection of the claims, and submit that independent Claim 24 and 27, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons. (For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of all the claims currently pending in this application is attached. In keeping with the changes to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 to implement the Patent Business Goals, the claims will not have a parenthetical expression following the claim number.)

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 24 is directed to an image processing device. The device includes a scanner for inputting an image signal and a control unit for performing image processing, which is necessary for a copying operation, on the inputted image signal to provide a first processed image signal. A bidirectional interface of the device transmits the inputted image signal, under control of the control unit, to an external computer. In turn, the external computer performs image processing, which is necessary for a copying operation, on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal. The bidirectional interface also receives the second processed image signal from the external computer. An output circuit of the device outputs the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer.

The device has a plurality of modes, including first and second copying modes. In the first copying mode, the image signal from the scanner is transmitted in order of the control unit, the bidirectional interface, the external computer, the bidirectional interface, the control unit, and the output circuit, so that a copying operation may be performed based on the second processed image signal. In the second copying mode,

the image signal from the scanner is transmitted in order of the control unit and the output circuit, so that a copying operation may be performed based on the first processed image signal.

One important feature of Claim 24 is that the first copying mode of the device outputs the image signals obtained by the scanner to the output circuit after the image signals have been processed by an external computer. In the second copying mode, the device outputs the image signals to the output circuit after the image signals have been processed within the device itself.

In that regard, another important feature of Claim 24 is that the transmission paths of the image signals in the first and the second copying modes are different. Specifically, in the first copying mode, the image signals from the scanner are transferred in order of the control unit, the bidirectional interface, an external device, the bidirectional interface, the control unit, and the output circuit. In the second mode, the image signals from the scanner are transferred from the control unit to the output circuit.

Kita et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to an image processing device that includes a scanner, a printer, a facsimile control unit, bus lines, a bidirectional interface, and

a main CPU. The device is connected to a personal computer ("PC"). Apparently, Kita et al. teaches that the device is multi-functional, in that it is capable of copying documents, recording information generated in the PC, displaying or filing information at the PC, and performing facsimile transmissions and receptions.

Applicants submit, however, that nothing has been found in Kita et al. that teaches or suggests an image processing device capable of operating in at least first and second copying modes, such that in the first copying mode the image signal from the scanner is "transmitted in order of said control unit, said bidirectional interface, the external computer, said bidirectional interface, said control unit, and said output circuit," and in the second copying the image signal from the scanner is "transmitted in order of said control unit and said output circuit," as recited in Claim 24.

As discussed above, the image processing device of Claim 24 is not simply a combination of a scanner, a control unit, a bidirectional interface, and an output circuit, but also incorporates copying modes, in which the elements of the device are utilized differently depending on the copying mode being used. Such copy modes apparently are not addressed in Kita et

al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 24 is not anticipated by Kita et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 27 is a method claim that includes the same features as those discussed above in connection with Claim 24. Accordingly, Claim 27 is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 24.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Request For Reconsideration is believed clearly

to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Request, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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NY_MAIN 140263 v1



Application No. 08/579,733
Attorney Docket No. 862.1351

PENDING CLAIMS - JANUARY 22, 2001

24. An image processing device comprising:
a scanner for inputting an image signal;
a control unit including a control circuit adapted for
controlling said device and performing image processing necessary
for copying on the image signal input from said scanner to
provide a first processed image signal;
a bidirectional interface for transmitting the image
signal input by said scanner under control of said control unit
to an external computer, which performs image processing
necessary for copying on the transmitted image signal to provide
a second processed image signal, and receiving the second
processed image signal from the external computer; and
an output circuit adapted for outputting the first
processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a
printer, wherein
said device has a plurality of modes including first
and second copying modes, the image signal from said scanner
being transmitted in order of said control unit, said

bidirectional interface, the external computer, said bidirectional interface, said control unit, and said output circuit in the first copying mode so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, and

the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of said control unit and said output circuit in the second mode so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal.

26. The device according to claim 24, wherein the external computer includes a modem capable of processing the image signal received through said bidirectional interface and transmitting the image signal to a public telephone line.

27. An image processing method for an image processing device, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image signal by a scanner;
performing image processing necessary for copying on the input image signal by using a control unit for controlling the image processing device to provide a first processed image signal;

transmitting the image signal input by the scanner

under control of the control unit to an external computer via a bidirectional interface to be processed, by image processing necessary for copying, into a second processed image signal;

receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer via the bidirectional interface;

outputting the first or the second processed image signal to a printer via an output circuit;

performing copying based on the second processed image signal in a first copying mode by transmitting the image signal from the scanner in order of the control unit, the bidirectional interface, the external computer, the bidirectional interface, the control unit, and the output circuit; and

performing copying based on the first processed image signal in a second copying mode by transmitting the image signal from the scanner in order of the control unit and the output circuit.

29. The method according to claim 27, wherein the transmitted image signal is processed by the external computer and transmitted to a public telephone line.

57. The image processing device according to claim 24,

wherein said output circuit includes a bidirectional interface.

58. The image processing device according to claim 24,
wherein said scanner generates a color image signal.

59. The image processing device according to claim 24,
wherein said control unit has a density adjusting function.

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